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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/60 A of 9 December 1992, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security". In that resolution the General Assembly, inter alia, invited Member States to submit their views on the question of the implementation of the Declaration, particularly in the light of recent positive developments in the global political and security climate, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the basis of the replies received.

2. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale on 6 April 1993 to the Governments of Member States inviting them to submit, by 30 July 1993, their views in accordance with paragraph 13 of resolution 47/60 A.

3. To date, the Secretary-General has received replies from four countries. Any further replies will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

[Original: Spanish]

[21 July 1993]

1. The Dominican Government is firmly resolved to support all measures taken by the Organization with a view to implementing and strengthening international peace-keeping and security in all their aspects, especially in view of the recent changes in the international political system, which have also transformed world security arrangements on the international scene.

2. The Government of the Dominican Republic also reiterates its unconditional support for the principles and norms of international public law and the Charter of the United Nations as another form of expressing its desire for peace and its respect for the dispute-settlement mechanisms accepted by international public law and reaffirmed in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

PANAMA

[Original: Spanish]

[24 June 1993]

1. The Republic of Panama, as a country filled with love and respect for peace, lauds the work of the Secretary-General of the United Nations at a time when the world is faced with new post-cold-war challenges. It is now incumbent on all peace-loving States to join forces in the struggle to eliminate the

threat of a conventional weapons build-up. This will serve to highlight respect for the proposals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, especially as regards the principles of the sovereign equality of States; the peaceful settlement of disputes and refraining from the use or threat of force in international relations; and respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. We are hopeful that the dialogue between the United States of America and the Russian Federation will move the two nations to renounce strategic doctrines based on the use of nuclear weapons and to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, thereby guaranteeing a climate of trust and world security. In this context, we should spare no effort to take steps to prevent war, reduce political confrontation and maintain stability and cooperation in all spheres of relations between States.

3. We share the views contained in the Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace" and believe that using preventive diplomacy, seeking to prevent conflict and keeping the peace are essential to the strengthening of international security. Like you, we believe that: "Never again must the Security Council lose the collegiality that is essential to its proper functioning, an attribute that it has gained after such trial. A genuine sense of consensus deriving from shared interests must govern its work, not the threat of the veto or the power of any group of nations ... agreement among the permanent members must have the deeper support of the other members of the Council, and the membership more widely, if the Council's decisions are to be effective and endure (ibid., para. 78).

QATAR

[Original: Arabic]

[27 July 1993]

The Government of Qatar, in the light of recent developments on the international scene in the last two years, considers that what the international community must do in order to ensure the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, adopted in 1970 by General Assembly resolution 2734 (XXV), is for the international community, as represented in the United Nations and the United Nations Security Council, to take a resolute and effective stand on aggression, the use of force to acquire territory and the commission of crimes against humanity against peoples or a particular people for no reason other than their ethnic or religious affiliation. All of this the international community is witnessing in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is, unfortunately, standing passively by. If the situation were to continue, the lofty meanings enshrined in the above-mentioned Declaration would have no value, there would be no benefit from the existence of such a declaration and there would be no point in seeking means of ensuring its implementation.

SUDAN

[Original: Arabic]

[28 July 1993]

1. The strengthening and promotion of international security can come into effect only through the full realization of the principle of equitable treatment. It is not possible for the various countries of the world to feel secure in an atmosphere of selectivity and double standards and with the major Powers monopolizing decision-making on matters of international security by reason of their influence in the Security Council and their right of veto. Third world countries will continue to feel insecure unless the international system and the current international bodies are modified in such a way as to become more democratic and to reflect more clearly the legitimate aspirations of the different States without pressure from the major Powers. Here it is essential to strengthen the role of the General Assembly so as to make it equal in importance to the Security Council.

2. Precise and objective criteria must be established by independent academic bodies, not political ones that seek to endorse a reality that affirms the hegemony of the major Powers. Objectivity is required so that States are not accused of violating human rights while more heinous practices elsewhere in the world are ignored. In this connection, a fact-finding mechanism might be set up that would be acceptable to all the parties concerned, and, in the light of the data provided by such mechanism, a decision could be taken to intervene or not. Objectivity and the fact-finding mechanism would be important factors in preventing blatant interference in the affairs of smaller States and the use of various issues such as human rights and terrorism as pretexts for interference.

3. There is a need for a reaffirmation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations relating to the right of States to enjoy independence and to choose their own political and cultural orientations without interference from outside forces, since waiving this right on grounds of humanitarian intervention may open the door wide to political decisions adopted by the Powers that dominate the United Nations and the Security Council. Reaffirmation of the right of States to choose their own cultural orientation is a primary element in the sense of security of those States and an important means of enriching international political thought, freeing it from the mind set that regards the Western democratic model as the ideal form of government.

4. A just system can only come from a close examination of international institutions and how they operate. Such institutions may continue to be influenced by the major Powers unless agreement is reached to revise permanent membership in the Security Council and the veto in such a way as to render the Security Council more representative of the States of the world and to ensure that the veto does not become a means of domination by those very Powers.

5. Maybe the most important of the proposals that may be put forward in the context of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (General Assembly resolution 2734 (XXV)) are full and serious commitment to the provisions of the above-mentioned Declaration, reaffirmation of the principles contained therein, such as those set forth in operative paragraphs 2, 4, 5, 6

and 12, and an ongoing endeavour to reinforce, inculcate and uphold these principles.

6. It is perhaps self-evident that all States Members of the United Nations should respect the principles and provisions of the Charter and be bound by the international agreements to which they have voluntarily acceded and which enshrine respect for man as a being having rights and obligations.